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TO: Commissioner for Patents  
Attn: Examiner Van Thanh Trieu  
P.O. Box 1450  
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FROM: Brian N. Tufte

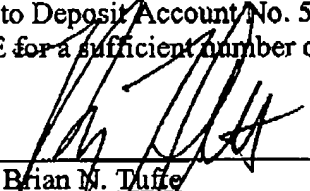
OUR REF: H0005559(1161.1207101)  
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Total pages, including cover letter: 3**PTO FAX NUMBER 703-872-9306**

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Title of Document Transmitted: Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance  
Applicant: Kenneth William Crooks  
Serial No.: 10/630,093  
Filed: July 30, 2003  
Group Art Unit: 2636  
Our Ref. No.: H0005559(1161.1207101)  
Confirmation No. 8500

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## PATENT

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: Kenneth William Crooks et al. Confirmation: 8500  
Serial No.: 10/630,093 Examiner: Van Thanh Trieu  
Filing Date: July 30, 2003 Group Art Unit: 2636  
For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR ALARM VERIFICATION IN A  
VENTILATION SYSTEM  
Docket No.: H0005559(1161.1207101)

**COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

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Lynn Thompson

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Date

The Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance accompanying the Notice of Allowance mailed on January 12, 2005 does not appear to be very concise or comprehensive. The Examiner states that there are no prior arts teaching or suggesting an apparatus and method for verifying operation of an alarm in a vented enclosure comprising: a flow control device that controls a flow rate of gas flowing through a conduit/duct from a vented enclosure; and an alarm verification device adapted to cause, in response to input from a user for testing the alarm operation such as to override to control of the damper position and position the damper element to set air flow through the conduit/duct at a known value that is less than or greater than a threshold value, flow less than or greater than the threshold value being less than or greater than a set point and causing an alarm to be activated.

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Applicants would like to point out that many of the claims do not recite many of the limitations that are listed by the Examiner. For example, allowed claim 1 recites:

1. (original) A system for verifying operation of an alarm in a vented enclosure, comprising:
  - an enclosure from which gas may be exhausted;
  - a flow control device that controls a flow rate of gas removed from the enclosure;
  - an alarm that provides an indication when a flow rate of gas being removed from the enclosure is below or above a threshold flow rate; and
  - an alarm verification device that, in response to user input to test operation of the alarm, causes a signal that the flow rate of gas being removed from the enclosure is below or above the threshold flow rate.

As can be seen, claim 1 recites "a flow control device that controls a flow rate of gas removed from the enclosure", and not "a flow control device that controls a flow rate of gas flowing through a conduit/duct from a vented enclosure". In addition, claim 1 recites "an alarm verification device that, in response to user input to test operation of the alarm, causes a signal that the flow rate of gas being removed from the enclosure is below or above the threshold flow rate", and not "an alarm verification device adapted to cause, in response to input from a user for testing the alarm operation such as to override to control of the damper position and position the damper element to set air flow through the conduit/duct at a known value that is less than or greater than a threshold value, flow less than or greater than the threshold value being less than or greater than a set point and causing an alarm to be activated". Like claim 1, many of the other claims also do not recite many of the limitations listed by the Examiner.

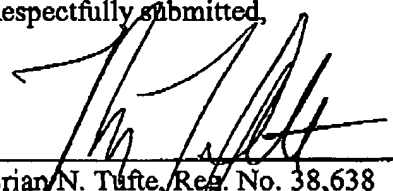
In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe that the Examiner did not intend to provide a complete and thorough analysis of why each and every allowed claim was found to be patentable over the cited prior art. The Examiner did state that claims 1-34 are allowable over the prior art.

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Confirmation No. 8500

Thus, the Examiner must have concluded that the claims as allowed are patentable over the prior art, and not necessarily for the reasons summarized in the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance. Applicant respectfully request clarification if the Examiner does not agree with this statement.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: April 12, 2005



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